



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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District of Arizona*

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## **11 ARRESTED IN JOINT OPERATION AGAINST ILLEGAL FIREARM AND DRUG TRAFFICKING IN CENTRAL PHOENIX**

### ***Indictments unsealed in federal court***

PHOENIX -- After an extensive joint undercover investigation, Operation Suppressor has led to the arrest of 11 defendants, most of whom face federal charges for dealing in illegal firearms and narcotics trafficking in Phoenix. Federal search warrants were served at five Central Phoenix locations this week by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and Phoenix Police officers.

“The ultimate goal of Operation Suppressor, as a part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, is to create safer neighborhoods by reducing gun violence,” said Paul K. Charlton, U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona. “The arrests of these alleged mid-level drug dealers, illegal firearms traffickers and violent felons in possession of firearms are clearly a strong step in that direction.”

Seven of the 11 individuals arrested have been indicted on federal drug trafficking and firearms charges and will be prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney’s Office. The remaining individuals are being held by the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office on state drug trafficking charges.

Federal cases as of today’s date:

1. Patrick Cordell, age 32; Felon in Possession of Ammunition.
2. Santos Garcia, age 33; Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine, Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine, Felon in Possession of a Firearm.
3. Cesar Gonzalez, age 39; Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine, Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine, Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine Base, Felon in Possession of a Firearm, and Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking crime.
4. Russell Hill, age 39; Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine.
5. Jerry Maximoff, age 50; Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine and Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine.
6. Jeffrey Reno, age 42; Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine, Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine, and Felon in Possession of a Firearm.

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7. Gail Smith, age 54; Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine and Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine.

All are residents of the City of Phoenix.

Operation Suppressor is part of the District of Arizona's Project Safe Neighborhoods, an enforcement program against illegal firearms. Through ongoing partnerships among federal, state and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies, the U.S. Attorney is implementing a series of strategies that are contoured to fit the specific gun crime problems throughout Arizona.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and various special units of the Phoenix Police Department including their Special Assignment Unit (SAU), Neighborhood Enforcement Team (NET), Drug Enforcement Bureau (DEB), and Gun Squad. Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Detention Officers also provided assistance. The prosecution on federal charges is being handled by the U.S. Attorney Office, District of Arizona and the state charges are being handled by the Maricopa County Attorneys Office.

CASE NUMBER: CR-05-920-PHX-DGC; CR-05-921-PHX-DGC; CR-05-922-PHX-EHC  
# 2005-167

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